

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05 CU-06

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O R 131616Z SEP 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8802

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4747

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT, PINS, SHUM

SUBJ: JUSTICE MINISTER STATEMENT ON DEATH OF STEVE BIKO

REF: PRETORIA 4735

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SEPTEMBER 13 STATEMENT BY JUSTICE
MINISTER JUMMY KRUGER ON THE DEATH OF STEVE BIKO (REFTEL):

1. MR. STEVEN BANTU BIKO, PREVIOUSLY ATTACHED TO SASO
AND BPC, HAD BEEN RESTRICTED TO THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT
OF KING WILLIAMS TOWN.

2. MR. BIKO AND A COLORED MAN WERE ARRESTED AT A ROAD
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BLOCK NEAR GRAHAMSTOWN ON AUGUST 18 AFTER INFORMATION
WAS RECEIVED ABOUT MR. BIKO. HE WAS TRAVELING
BETWEEN CAPE TOWN AND KING WILLIAMS TOWN.

3. HE WAS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH ACTIVITIES
RELATED TO THE RIOTS IN PORT ELIZABETH AND, INTER
ALIA FOR DRAFTING AND DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS WHICH

INCITED ARSON AND VIOLENCE.

4. HE WAS DETAINED AT THE WALMER POLICE STATION IN PORT ELIZABETH.

5. SINCE SEPTEMBER 5 MR. BIKO REFUSED HIS MEALS AND THREATENED A HUNGER STRIKE. BUT HE WAS, HOWEVER, REGULARLY SUPPLIED WITH MEALS AND WATER WHICH HE REFUSED TO PARTAKE OF.

6. THE DISTRICT SURGEON WAS CALLED IN ON SEPTEMBER 7 AFTER MR. BIKO APPEARED TO BE UNWELL. THE DOCTOR CERTIFIED THAT HE COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH MR. BIKO.

7. ON SEPTEMBER 8, THE POLICE ARRANGED THAT MR. BIKO AGAIN BE EXAMINED BY A DISTRICT SURGEON AS WELL AS THE CHIEF DISTRICT SURGEON AND, BECAUSE THEY COULD DIAGNOSE NO PHYSICAL PROBLEM, THEY RECOMMENDED THAT MR. BIKO BE SENT TO THE PRISON HOSPITAL FOR INTENSIVE EXAMINATION.

8. A SPECIALIST EXAMINED HIM ON THE SAME DAY.

9. ON SEPTEMBER 9, MR. BIKO WAS AGAIN EXAMINED BY A DOCTOR WHO KEPT HIM FOR OBSERVATION.
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10. ON SEPTEMBER 11, MR. BIKO WAS REMOVED FROM THE PRISON HOSPITAL TO WALMER POLICE STATION ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DISTRICT SURGEON.

1. BY SUNDAY, MR. BIKO HAD STILL NOT EATEN AND APPEARED TO BE UNWELL. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT SURGEON IT WAS DECIDED TO TRANSFER MR. BIKO TO PRETORIA. HE WAS TAKEN TO PRETORIA THE SAME NIGHT.

12 ON SEPTEMBER 12, MR. BIKO WAS AGAIN EXAMINED AND MEDICALLY TREATED BY A DISTRICT SURGEON IN PRETORIA.

13 MR. BIKO DIED THE SAME NIGHT.

14. A POST MORTEM WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CHIEF STATE PATHOLOGIST IN THE PRESENCE OF A PRIVATE PATHOLOGIST APPOINTED BY MR. BIKO'S RELATIVES.

15. MR. BIKO'S MOTHER WAS INFORMED OF HIS DEATH BECAUSE HIS WIFE, WHO IS SEPARATED FROM HIM, COULD NOT BE TRACED.

16. DURING HIS DETENTION A MAGISTRATE VISITED
MR. BIKO ON SEPTEMBER 2 ACCORDING TO LAW. END OF
STATEMENT. BOWDLER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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